Wagons for Salt Industry

3459. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual demand and actual availability of salt wagons for the salt industry in Gujarat during 1990-91 1991-92 and 1992-93 so far; and

(b) what steps are being taken to augment the wagon availability for salt industry in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The position of loading on the Broad Gauge is as follows:

Year	Total Indents	Loading
1990-91	81568	67589
1991-92	100559	67658
1992-93 (April to November)	67590	53767

(b) The supply of wagons has been stepped up over the years. In the current year wagon supplies are considerably higher and the demands of programmed salt traffic arc being met with currently.

Withdrawal of orders for the Closures of Loco Wagon Sheds

3460. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding the withdrawal of orders for the closures of loco wagon sheds/steam engine sheds etc. in Siliguri Railway Junction;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to withdraw this order; and

(c) if not, *the* reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steam traction is an uneconomical mode of traction as compared to dicsel/clectric traction. Railways have, therefore, planned to replace steam locomotives gradually' by the year 2000. Consequently, all steam sheds shall also be closed in a phased manner. Closure of steam shed at Siliguri after dieselisation of train services in the area is a part of this process.

Retention of the sick line facilities for repair of wagons is not justified on account of inadequate arisings.

Granting of Permission to sell Newspapers etc. to Sarvodaya Books Stall

3461. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from M/s Sarva Seva Sangh's Prakashan for granting permission to sell newspapers, magazines, books and other periodicals on each of the Sarvodaya books stalls like A.H. Wheeler and Company;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on those representations date-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons for not granting permission to M/s Sarva Scva Sangh Prakashan for the sale of newspapers and periodicals etc. including those literary materials which is being sold by M/s A.H. Wheeler and Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a special dispensation and without following the laid down procedure for allotment of bookstall *licences, permission is granted, as a* special case, to certain philanthropic and non-profit making organisations to set up and operate bookstalls on selected stations for sale of their own, similar and Government of India publications.

Arising therefrom, such bookstalls are not granted permission for selling other publications including newpapers and magazines, etc. except at stations where there is no other bookstall contractor. In view thereof M/s Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan has not been allowed sale of newspapers, magazines, etc. from their stalls.

Construction of an Overbridgc in Khammam, Andhra Pradesh

3462. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway gate located between Gandhi Chowk and Station Road in Khammam (Andhra Pradesh) remains always closed causing inconvenience to the public and very often causing accidents; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to construct an over-bridge at Central Railway Crossing at Khammam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The level crossing which is situated in the yard has to be closed for longer periods for operational reasons with consequent delay to road users. Accidents do not normally occur on closed level crossings.

(b) No proposal has been sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority for construction of overbridge at this location. As per rules, Railways consider replacement of a level crossing by an overbridge if the proposal is sponsored by the State Government/Local body consenting to bear their share of cost.

Book Stall Contracts

3463. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Book Stall Contract (including Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan) agreements are executed/renewed only for a period of five years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the agreement of A.H. Wheeler & Co. is extended for a period of nine years since 1967; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In 1967, it was decided to delete the clause of "Automatic renewal" from the agreements of M/s A.H. Wheeler and Co. but to extend their period of agreements from 5 years to 9 years at a time.

मनमाड-जालना रेल मार्ग पर दूसरी एलोरा लिंक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी का चलाया जाना

3464. डा॰ बापू कालदाते: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मनमाड-जालना रेल मार्ग पर दूसरी एलोरा लिंक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी चलाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) जी नहीं;

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता;

(ग) जालना और औरंगाबाद के बीच चल रहे आमान परिवर्तन कार्य के कारण?

Representations for Second Overbridge at Solapur on Solapur-Wadi Section

3465. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations with regard to taking up of second overbridge at Solapur on Solapur-Wadi section in view of the